

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXX. No. 51

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—ITALIAN OPERA—MAGNA.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—FORTY WINKS—TODDLES.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—HAMILTON.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE DEVIL'S SHIRT.—SAR FAY.—POOL OF THE FAMILIAR.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—STILL WATERS RUN DEEP.—HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE STREET OF NEW YORK.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DAN TROT—MILLER'S MAID—LITTLE TIT.

NIRLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—LOVE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—TWO MAMMOTHEE FAY WOODS—LIVING SKELTON—DWARF—GIANT BOY—THE WORKS OF NEW YORK—DAY AND EVENING.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics Hall, 472 Broadway.—TODDLES—SINGERS—DANCERS—BURLESQUE, 20—LIVE LION.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway.—STARS OF NEW YORK—THE PLAY BILL—BURLESQUE SONGS, DANCE, AC.

SALLE D'OPERA, 60 Broadway.—ROBERT HILLER'S MINSTRELS—TODDLES.

VAN AMBURGH & CO'S MAMMOTHEE MENAGERIE, 120 and 541 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

HIPPODROME, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN, GYMNASTIC AND AEROMATIC ENTERTAINMENTS—MOTHER GOOSE.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLET, PASTORALS, BURLESQUE, AC.—THE YOUNG RECRUIT.

HOOLEY & CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, 109 and 201 Bowery.—SINGERS, DANCERS, BURLESQUE, AC.—LIVE LION.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

VANNUCHI'S MUSEUM, 600 Broadway.—Moving Wax Figures.

New York, Tuesday, February 21, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

There is no longer any doubt regarding the fall of the proud stronghold of secession, the city of Charleston. We have the positive announcement of its evacuation by the rebels both in the Richmond papers of yesterday and in a despatch from Admiral Dahlgren to Secretary Welles. Though the two accounts do not precisely agree regarding the day of actual abandonment, the main and important fact is none the less certain. The Richmond journals say the rebels marched out on Tuesday last, and Admiral Dahlgren appeared to be under the impression that they did not leave till last Saturday. When the Admiral wrote his despatch, he was on his way up to the city, over which the national flag is no doubt now again waving, after a displacement of four years. There is a report, which, however, lacks confirmation, that a battle took place between the rebels and General Gilmore's command previous to the evacuation of the city by the former. Accompanying our despatches this morning we give a sketch of Charleston.

The Richmond papers of yesterday say it was Sherman's main army which occupied Columbia, the capital of South Carolina; that immediately after its capture his forces there were divided, one portion going towards Charleston and the other moving up the railroad towards Charlotte, N. C., in which direction Beauregard retreated, and that on last Sunday morning the latter national column was in pursuit of the fleeing rebels, and thirty miles north of Columbia. The rebel refugee columns report that their own cavalry plundered the city before its evacuation. Much rebel government property fell into Sherman's hands, according to the acknowledgments of the Richmond editors themselves, including over one hundred printing presses in one establishment, valuable machinery, medical stores, &c. Included in the property claimed to have been removed before its arrival several millions of dollars in specie and dimes and plates for printing the currency of the confederacy are mentioned. Charlotte, N. C., is said to be thronged with refugees from Columbia and other places in Sherman's line of march.

A rebel despatch from Wilmington, N. C., says that Fort Anderson has been subjected to a furious shelling by Admiral Porter's vessels, which continued all through last Friday afternoon and night and up to one o'clock on Saturday afternoon. It also reports a land attack on the fort, which, it says, was repulsed.

The rebels in North Carolina, according to their own accounts, are being stirred up in every direction. Yankee raids in Edcombe county, in the direction of the Wilmington road, and towards Tarboro, the movement of a heavy force on Kinston, a raid into Jones City, on Trent river, and various other expeditions, are mentioned. A movement in force of the national troops on Weldon is also looked for.

Ten thousand Union soldiers have been sent to Wilmington by the rebel authorities for the purpose of being exchanged during this week. The design is probably to delay the attack on that place.

There are again strong indications that General Lee is preparing to evacuate Richmond and fall back on Lynchburg for a final stand. Advice received in Washington state positively that nearly all the valuable machinery and medical stores have already been removed from the rebel capital, and it is anticipated that its abandonment will occur within ten or fifteen days.

There have been no new military movements of the James river army. The rebel deserters to the Union lines there averaged about seventy per day during the week ending with Saturday last, and up to noon yesterday, General Grant telegraphed, ninety-three had come in. These men say that a general despondency prevails throughout Lee's army, and that the desertions are as numerous as those to the front, indicating a general dissolution of the rebel military force. The exchange of prisoners, under the new arrangements projected between General Grant and Commissioner Orin, is progressing rapidly, and three steamers are now being employed in carrying the released Union soldiers to Annapolis, Md., and conveying return loads of rebels. Our men, both in words and appearance, and mountains of evidence to confirm all that has previously been told of the barbarity and rapacity practiced by the rebels on their unfortunate captives. Under an agreement lately entered into, all the Union prisoners now held in the Trans-Mississippi Department are to be exchanged. To accommodate the men of the Potomac and James armies, the postal money order system has been extended to the Post Office at City Point.

A party of Sheridan's cavalry went up the valley of the Shenandoah the other day on a scouting expedition, and while on their return fell into an ambush prepared by Mosby's men. A desperate fight ensued, but the guerrillas were so numerous and so strongly posted that our cavalry were roughly handled, and only made good their retreat after losing a number killed and wounded, and sixty taken prisoners.

Late rebel newspapers have a report that General Grant has recently sent eight thousand men southward from Ky Point, they believe to Newbern or Cape Fear river.

N. C. The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle advises the people of that city to resist the burning of cotton by the rebel military force. General Joe Johnston's report of his campaign from Dalton to Atlanta, Ga., has been made public, by order of the Congress. The recapture of Suffolk, Va., by the Union forces is announced. The Richmond Enquirer says the present value of the rebel paper dollar in that city is just two cents in specie. Great preparations are said to be now going on to reinforce General Lee with negro troops. A desperate fight between a rebel regiment and rebel deserters, in which several on both sides were wounded, took place on the 14th inst. in Lunenburg county, Va. Four thousand Unionists are reported advancing on Bristol, East Tennessee, from Knoxville.

CONGRESS.

But little business of importance was transacted by either house of Congress yesterday. In the Senate a bill was introduced regulating the expenses of internal revenue assessors for clerks and stationery, which was ordered to be printed. The Library Committee reported in favor of purchasing a picture of the Battle of Lake Erie, for \$25,000. Several bills relative to Indian affairs were passed. The vote by which the Army Appropriation bill was passed was reconsidered, and a proposition to remove all distinctions of rank and pay between regular and volunteer officers, stricken out, and the bill again passed. An evening session was held for executive business.

In the House of Representatives, a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information relating to the sale of gold by government agents was laid on the table by a majority. The Conference Committee on the bill defining the pay and emoluments of army officers made a report to the effect that all officers were placed on an equality, but were not to receive additional pay for discharging the duties pertaining to brevet rank, but the report was disagreed to, and a new committee of conference was ordered. The remainder of the session was devoted to debate on the bill providing for the reconstruction of the rebel States.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The naval supply steamer Port Morgan arrived at this port on Sunday, with a number of army and navy officers, nearly five hundred discharged and invalid soldiers, and sailors and the mails from the East and West Gulf squadrons, both of which she communicated with at various points, having proceeded as far west as the mouth of the Rio Grande, and that place there were a large fleet of merchant vessels and an English and a French man-of-war. The Port Morgan reached Mobile Bay, on her return trip, on the 16th inst. Several United States iron-clads and double-enders were then off God river bar, in close proximity to the city. The Port Morgan left Key West on the 14th inst. Our correspondent informs us of the arrival there on the 13th, from No Name Key—where the United States steamer San Jacinto was some time ago wrecked—of Captain Meade, officers and crew of that unfortunate vessel. The guns of the ship and other valuable property were saved. All the officers of the San Jacinto speak in high terms of Mr. Brown, the English magistrate at Green Turtle Key, who was very attentive to their wants and rendered them much valuable assistance. The weather at Key West has lately been very cold for that region, the mercury on the morning of the 16th inst. being down to forty-eight degrees, the lowest point it has reached there in eight years.

The steamship Liberty, from Havana on the 15th inst., arrived here yesterday. The principal point of interest in her news relates to the blockade running steamers, there being seventeen of them in the port of Havana on the 15th inst. Several of them had left, and shortly after returned, under the plea of distress; but it was believed that they had been seized by United States cruisers. As blockade running is about at an end, it is supposed that they will be no more. The association have a project for substituting them with small schooners capable of running into the minor water outlets on the Florida coast. Three hundred coolies arrived at Havana on the 13th inst. on board a French vessel.

The French steamship Lafayette, Captain Bocande, from St. Louis, Mo., arrived at this port last night. Her European arrival was later than those brought by the Saxonia, published in yesterday morning's Herald.

Captain Fitzgerald, of the brig Paragon, who arrived in this city yesterday, from Laguna, reports that on the 8th of November last, while the schooner Alice Mow was at anchor off Matamoros, she was boarded by a party of rebels from the shore, who got her under weigh and proceeded to sea with her, and subsequently burned her on the 10th of December. The first mate and one man joined the rebels. The second mate and five men, who refused to join them, were set adrift in the yawl, and arrived at Laguna on the 16th of December.

The dock to fill the gap under the President's last call for three hundred thousand troops will commence today at eleven o'clock in the First, Second, Third and Fifth Congressional districts. These include Richmond county, on Staten Island; Kings, Queens and Suffolk counties, on Long Island; and the counties of Westchester, Rockland and Putnam. No order has yet been received to begin drafting in this city.

To-morrow being the one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the birthday of Washington, it will be celebrated in this city with more than the usual marks of respect. There will be parades of the military, salutes on the Battery and in Union square, and displays of fireworks at several points at night. At noon the bells of Trinity will chime a number of patriotic and other favorite airs, and there will be numerous other interesting observations of the day.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday and transacted a large amount of routine business. None of it, however, was of a character to make it interesting to the general public.

The Board of Commissioners met yesterday, and appointed a special committee of five to co-operate with the Aldermen committee selected to choose a site for the State Capitol and executive buildings. The resolutions authorizing the City Inspector to contract with Daniel Gallagher to remove the night soil from the city for a period of ten years was adopted. The contractor is to give security in the sum of five thousand dollars for the performance of the contract, and to pay into the City Treasury one thousand dollars quarterly. After the transaction of considerable routine business the Board adjourned.

The Albany Senatorial Investigating Committee met yesterday and resumed the examination of the affairs of the Comptroller's Department. Mr. Brennan was on the stand most of the time, and many important facts were elicited, in which the public have a deep interest. The committee will meet again to-day.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Recorder Hoffman sentenced a number of prisoners who were tried early in the term. John Tobin, convicted of assaulting officer Cole, was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. Michael O'Leary, convicted of an attempt at grand larceny, was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. Charles Scott, against whom were two indictments for committing larceny by procuring goods from transportation companies by false representations, pleaded guilty. His previous reputation was not good, and the Recorder sentenced him to imprisonment in the State Prison for three years and six months. Amelia Graves, charged with stealing wearing apparel worth ninety-seven dollars from Mrs. E. Ferris, 34 Great Jones street, on the 10th of January, pleaded guilty to the offense of larceny, and was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. Sarah Campbell, charged with stealing a black silk dress, worth eighty dollars, from Nellie Ashton, pleaded guilty and was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. Charles English, a youth, pleaded guilty to a felonious assault and battery, having, on the 7th inst., attempted to shoot officer Connolly, in Mercer street, while he was conveying him to the station house. English is charged with being concerned in the burglary which was committed in the store of Dennis Dowling, 726 Broadway. He was remanded for sentence. The District Attorney gave notice that he would move for sentence this morning upon Bernard Fiery, convicted on Friday of murder in the first degree by the killing of Harry Lazarus.

The testimony in the case of the application of the Russian government for the extradition of Richard Hill, alias Ferdinand Voigtman, was concluded yesterday. United States Commissioner White, before whom the case was being tried, at the suggestion of counsel, adjourned further proceedings in the matter until Friday morning next, when counsel for the accused will submit his motion for discharge.

There are no new developments of the operations against the bounty brokers. Colonel Baker went to Washington on Saturday, and is expected back to-day. The business of the office goes on as usual, and the labors of the detectives are still progressing.

A fire occurred early yesterday morning at No. 40 East Houston street, causing damage to building and furniture to the extent of about eight hundred dollars, all of which is covered by insurance.

John Hay, one of the sufferers by the riot in this city last July, 1863, obtained a verdict in the Superior Court yesterday against the city for thirteen hundred and thirty dollars, in consequence of injuries done to two tenement houses in Thirty-second street, near Seventh avenue. The plaintiff claimed to have been damaged to the extent of sixteen hundred dollars.

Yesterday against the city for thirteen hundred and thirty dollars, in consequence of injuries done to two tenement houses in Thirty-second street, near Seventh avenue. The plaintiff claimed to have been damaged to the extent of sixteen hundred dollars.

About ten o'clock yesterday forenoon a fire broke out in a stable at No. 155 West Forty-sixth street, and extended to the adjoining houses on each side. The loss in the three buildings amount to about two thousand dollars, which is partially covered by insurance.

The Illinois Legislature has resolved to pay itself in gold. A serious accident, caused by a broken nail, occurred on the St. Louis and Alton Railroad on the evening of the 15th inst. The two rear cars of the train were thrown from the track and nearly demolished, causing the instant death of two persons, fatally wounding a third, and bruising a number of others, some of them dangerously. It is stated that these are the first passengers that have been killed on the road since it went into operation.

An entire block, consisting of fourteen wooden buildings, in the town of Polo, Illinois, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 13th inst. The amount of the loss is not stated.

According to the City Inspector's report there were 497 deaths in the city during the week ending on the 20th of February—an increase of 18 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 9 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. Of the deaths in the course of last week, 284 resulted from acute diseases, 100 from chronic diseases, and 23 from external causes. There were 249 natives of the United States, 9 of England, 94 of Ireland, 25 of Germany, 7 of Scotland, and the balance of various foreign countries. The number of deaths from smallpox was 35, being an increase of 5 on the number for the preceding week.

The stock market was heavy yesterday. Governments were quiet. Gold was active and excited, and closed at 200½. At the evening board it closed at 198½.

The fall of gold unsettled the market for everything yesterday, and after the official announcement of the evacuation of Charleston, prices were entirely nominal. Foreign merchandise was quiet, and very little business was done. Domestic produce was dull and lower in the forenoon, but duller and lower still in the afternoon. Cotton was irregular. Petroleum was quiet, and prices declined 1/4 c. Wheat was without decided change, but quiet. Corn was dull and drooping. Oats were firm and more active. The pork market was quiet and irregular. Beef was steady, while lard was firmer. Freight was very quiet. Whiskey was steady.

The Rebel Evacuation of Charleston—Only Richmond Left.

Charleston was evacuated on Tuesday last. This brief announcement from the Richmond Examiner covers one of the most remarkable and important of all the great events of the war. After all the mighty armaments which have failed before her formidable defenses—after all the gallant armies that have been beaten off from her difficult land approaches, during the four years of this tremendous war, it is indeed remarkable that this apparently impregnable stronghold of Charleston should be found utterly untenable against a flank movement from General Sherman, over one hundred miles away in the interior. But, with our navy on guard in front, with Savannah in our possession below, and with all the lines of communication with the interior cut off by Sherman's advancing army, excepting the Wilmington Railroad above, an immediate retreat from Charleston became the only alternative to Hardee to secure that last remaining line of escape for his army. Pemberton, according to our last accounts of him, was at Charleston, and thus the fate of Pemberton was deeply impressed upon Hardee as a warning to be off in time.

The evacuation of the city and its costly, elaborate and powerful defenses, on all its approaches by land and water, is another event establishing the correctness of a certain opinion of that able rebel general, slain at Shiloh, Albert Sydney Johnston. With the capture of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, on the Cumberland river, some seventy-five miles or more from the stupendous rebel works at Columbus, on the Mississippi, on the one side, and something further from the extensive rebel works at Bowling Green, Kentucky, on the other side, Columbus and Bowling Green were both precipitately abandoned. Sydney Johnston, in command of the rebel army at Bowling Green, was required to explain his hasty evacuation of that place. His explanation was that, with General Grant's capture of Fort Donelson, Bowling Green, as well as Columbus, or Manassas, five hundred miles off, was turned, and was therefore no longer tenable. He then advanced his famous opinion that there was no position in "the confederacy," however strongly fortified by nature and art, which could not be turned, unless such position were supported by large movable armies to maintain its lines of communication.

Charleston affords a beautiful illustration of this infallible opinion. So long as the lines of communication between the city and its reinforcements and supplies were held intact, so long all our movements against it were baffled and defeated; but the moment those lines of supply are touched by Sherman the city becomes only a trap to its defenders, and, with Gilmore thundering at their front, they hasten to make their escape while yet one of their back doors remains open. It will be remembered, too, that after the lesson of Fort Donelson the whole rebel system of warfare was changed from a defensive military line to a system of important fortified positions, supported by movable armies operating on interior lines between them. The reopening of the Mississippi river was the first effective work towards the destruction of these interior rebel military lines; but the retention of Chattanooga, as the result of the otherwise disastrous battle of Chickamauga, gave us the substantial advantages of a victory of even greater importance than the capture of Vicksburg. Chattanooga was the entering wedge which opened the way for Sherman to Atlanta, Savannah, Columbia and Charleston, and to all the lines of communication between the country below and Richmond on both sides of the Alleghanies.

Now, what will be the consequences to Jeff. Davis from the fall of Charleston? The moral effect throughout the South will be great; the loss of the ordnance, ammunition, military workshops and materials of war involved will be great; but the advantages secured to General Grant, in the concentration of his armies against Richmond, and the disadvantages to the rebels, crowded into a corner, from the contraction of their area of supplies, are positively overwhelming. Wilmington, in anticipation of the approach of Sherman, will be abandoned, as Charleston has been. Mobile and all the confederacy South may be considered as the wing of an army, cut off from its main body, and prepared on demand to surrender. Richmond, in fact, is all that is left of the Davis confederacy. Beauregard, Hardee and Bragg will, doubtless, now attempt to form a junction with Lee, or he with them; but in either event the combinations against them all will be irresistible. We may safely say now that there will be no general draft if the present active and successful volunteering business in this city shall be followed up here and throughout the rebel States for the next sixty days.

Let General Grant be rapidly reinforced, and without another great battle this rebellion may be brought to an end. Thus, in promptly strengthening the ranks of our noble armies, we are, in the broadest sense, serving the cause of humanity, in view of the collapse of the rebellion, from the mere presence of our overwhelming numbers in the field.

French Schemes in Mexico—A Deep Diplomatic Game. The affairs of Mexico—especially in its relation to the United States—are now, more than ever, attracting the attention of the world, so that all reliable records of the country's progress to peace and prosperity or to further revolution and anarchy become a matter of paramount interest to the statesman and politician. Thus we find that the alleged cession of a number of rich Mexican provinces to the Emperor of the French is a general theme of comment both in Europe and this country. The Paris Moniteur has officially stated that "all reports which have been circulated in reference to a cession made to France by Mexico, of Sonora and other provinces, are absolute fabrications." From other semi-official sources we also have formal denials of the reported transfer. The rumor is also denied direct from Mexico, though not through any official source; and it will be remembered that Dr. Gwin, on his arrival at Havana a few weeks ago, on his way to Europe, took great pains to contradict the whole statement as to the cession of territory and his own elevation to a dukedom by his imperial Majesty of Mexico.

We have before said that the positive denial which Dr. Gwin gave to the rumor invested it with an air of probability, if not of truth. The official contradiction of the transfer by the French press, and especially by the Emperor's organ, strengthens us in our opinion. The antecedents of Dr. Gwin as a scheming politician are too well known and understood for any reliance to be placed upon his protestations of honor and disinterestedness as regards this Sonora scheme; and whatever future has attended his attempt to obtain such rich slices of territory from Mexico has been due entirely to the firmness displayed by Maximilian and his unwillingness to place himself in a hostile attitude towards the United States.

There is no doubt whatever that a deep diplomatic game is being played by Napoleon in reference to this Mexican question. The leading organs of public opinion in England have, however, seen through the matter, as we saw through it here. The London Times agrees with us in refusing to disbelieve the rumor of a cession of territory altogether on the mere faith of an official contradiction by the Moniteur. "Indeed," it says, "it can be positively shown to have had some foundation, whatever may be the ultimate extent of its realization." The reasons assigned by the Times for this statement are precisely the same as those which we offered some days ago for refusing to accept the denial of Dr. Gwin without some measure of allowance. "In any case," adds the paper from which we have already quoted, "the public, remembering the number of formal statements and contradictions that preceded the transfer of Savoy to France, will for a considerable time regard the matter with reserve. According to some impressions the most probable arrangement is that France will not immediately take an absolute cession, but will guarantee a new loan to Mexico on the security of the provinces named." This is, in all probability, the true explanation of the scheme. Napoleon will not take any direct step to embroil himself in war with this country, which would certainly follow any open seizure of Mexican territory; but he may safely allow some private French company to work the mines and develop the resources of the new provinces. The same company, as is proposed, will construct the Tehuantepec Railroad—a favorite scheme of Napoleon's—and buy up a large proportion of the Mexican loan. With a private enterprise of this kind, sanctioned by the government of Mexico, the United States would not have any direct right to interfere, and by a plea of this kind the astute Emperor of the French could always preserve friendly relations with this country, and yet gather into the coffers of France the tempting wealth of those valuable regions.

Taking all these things together, everything concerning Mexico becomes highly important, and deserves due consideration while these schemes are being worked out. In the meantime it is no doubt the earnest wish of Maximilian, as our correspondent states, to cultivate friendly relations with this country and to obtain a recognition of his empire at our hands if possible. To this end we understand that a gentleman of high standing and position in Mexico has already arrived here direct from the court of Maximilian to the government of the United States. The precise nature of his mission has not yet transpired; but as he will shortly proceed to Washington, we shall not be kept very long in doubt. What the President may do in the case cannot now be foreseen. He certainly cannot recognize the empire; but, though we cannot do this, we can have no objections to the numerous improvements which we are told the Emperor is striving to introduce. Let him go on with these by all means; for when the time comes for us to occupy the country we shall have so much the less to do. But while complimenting Maximilian for his usefulness in this direction, we must not fail to keep our eyes on the movements of Dr. Gwin in Europe, and the operations of Louis Napoleon in reference to the provinces which may yet fall into his hands, if we do not take the proper precautions to prevent it.

THE END OF THE REBELLION—FILL UP THE RANKS.—Now that Charleston has fallen—the keystone of the arch knocked out—the finishing of the rebellion may be considered close at hand. It requires only to fill up the ranks of our armies in order to secure the blessings of peace and make the coming 4th of July a double holiday, on which we may rejoice over the birth of national independence and the reconstruction of the republic upon a basis which neither internal dissension nor foreign hostility can ever again endanger. What remains to be done towards ending the war is now in the hands of the people. Our generals have done bravely; our soldiers have proved themselves heroes. Victory after victory has demonstrated the capacity of the government to maintain its authority, and assume its dominion over every foot of soil within its jurisdiction; but there is still a duty to be performed to render this end speedy, and that is to hurry up recruits, so that

our army may be strong enough to strike the final blow at once.

Mr. Stanton, in his despatch announcing the fall of Charleston, very properly admonishes us to "hasten on recruiting to fill up the army, and the rebellion must receive a final blow in this spring's campaign." We trust that this suggestion will be earnestly responded to.

We learn that the draft will be enforced to-day in the four districts surrounding this city—namely, the First, Second, Third and Tenth districts, which include Kings, Queens and Suffolk counties, on Long Island, and Richmond county, Staten Island. This strikes pretty near the metropolis. Still we believe that the draft may be avoided here. Our Supervisors' committee continue to be so successful in obtaining recruits that it may be deemed inexpedient to enforce the draft in New York. The fee required to purchase substitutes is in a great measure paid by the committee, thus relieving those liable to draft from the heaviest part of the pecuniary burden. Under all these circumstances it is necessary to state that the duty and the interest of every citizen, especially those liable to be drafted, is to furnish substitutes as far as possible to aid the committee in every way, and to insure the fulfillment of Mr. Stanton's declaration that the rebellion must receive a final blow in this spring's campaign.

The Capture of Charleston—The Blockade Runners. It is not yet four years since the war against the Union began in Charleston, and once more the Stars and Stripes wave over that city, or over the ruined remains of it. And that city—the head and heart of the rebellion—that uttered so vehemently through all those four years its lofty scorn of the "Northern scum," has at the last fallen with wonderful alacrity. It has made haste to be conquered. It rushes not into our arms, but under our feet. Its fall in this very way is the greatest moral triumph of our cause; and all principle that the enemy stood by in the struggle falls with the fall of that city. It is morally the end of the war. Secession dies miserably where it was born; and though some of the men that it arrayed in arms against us still hold out at other points, they hold out only to make terms. Their cause is gone, and they feel and know it.

But, besides being a great moral triumph, the capture of Charleston is a very practical advantage to our cause. It is another rock-dog for the blockade runners. The capture of Fort Fisher and the consequent closure of Wilmington—severe a blow as it was to the blockade running business—did not quite finish it. There is still considerable activity at Nassau of vessels going in and out with cotton and "assorted cargoes." Between January 23 and February 10 nine steamers "returned to port" at that place, unable, of course, to get into Wilmington. But the first that returned cleared three days later for "St. John, N. B." The second that returned cleared on the day after her return also for "St. John, N. B." And the other ships will follow in due time, with their heads turned in the same direction. Now, it must be understood that "St. John, N. B." means any port on our Southern seaboard at which the ships find it possible to enter; and Charleston has until now been one of those points. Good evidence of that fact appears in the Nassau shipping list, which chronicles the arrival from Charleston, between January 24 and February 9, of four ships laden with cotton. All trade at that particular point is now, however, pretty well stopped.

But we have not finished the business even yet. Every now and then we hear through the Southern papers that a ship has landed her cargo; but the point at which she did so is kept secret. The correspondent of the London Times gives us some light on this subject. He tells us that "the numberless creeks and rivers that intersect the coast" are "becoming known to the blockade running captains, and come what may, whether Wilmington or Charleston fall or not, it is absurd to think that the coast of Seecasia can ever be hornadically sealed." It is up these streams, then, that we are in future to look for the adventurous navigators whom we have shut out of Wilmington and Charleston; and the number of streams that we need watch none from which there is not easy and expeditious intercourse with the rebel capital.

The railroads are now important elements in the business. The correspondent of the London Times thought that "if the abundant internal resources of the confederacy were available wherever they are wanted—in other words, if the railroad transportation between Georgia and Virginia was as ample and as well regulated as between Illinois and Washington"—then the closure of Wilmington would do no great harm to the rebel cause. But the "it" is very important; for these railroads that were to enable the rebels to do without Wilmington are in our hands. The confederacy was to depend on foreign trade only for "munitions and nitre," which were to be "sucked in" by the rivers and creeks. But, as we have the railroads, everything else must be sucked in the same way; and that will be a very heavy and troublesome piece of suction. Moreover, when once landed, there must be railroads within easy reach to carry the material to the army, and, therefore, the coast line on which such operations can be effective is a very short one. It can be watched, and the government should see to it that it is.

We assume by the above that blockade goods are no longer of any use to the enemy except for Lee's army. It is possible, however, that such goods might be used against us to some purpose in the Southwest. Therefore the government ought to take some measures to make the blockade more effective on the Rio Grande. Blockade runners clear from Nassau for Matamoros all the time, and many get there of those that clear for St. John, N. B. That is a place, then, that should be looked after sharply, as the shutting out of arms and munitions of war will be the cheapest and easiest way to put down any demonstration that the enemy may make in that quarter.

The Steamer Nassau. The steamer Nassau, from Boston for Philadelphia, before reported shown on Squash Meadow shoal, got off this morning without assistance.

Aid for East Tennessee. Colonel N. G. Taylor, of East Tennessee, made a moving appeal to a meeting of merchants held in the Exchange this afternoon for aid to the destitute districts in that section of the country. Mayor Lincoln presided. The announcement that Charleston was evacuated created a furor in the meeting. The same announcement was also made to the Legislature while in session, and called forth loud and hearty cheering.

THE SHENANDOAH.

A Scouting Party Roughly Handled by Mosby's Guerrillas, &c.

MR. CHARLES H. PARRELL'S DISPATCH.

WINCHESTER, Va., Feb. 20, 1865.

A scouting party, consisting of one hundred and twenty-five men, comprised of Companies F and K, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, of the Second Division, the whole under command of Major Thomas Gibson, in obedience to instructions left their camp at Red Run, near this town, last evening. Captain Martin, of Company F, and Lieutenant Martin, of Company K, were in command. The party, accompanied by the expedition as volunteers, started on their march at dusk, and proceeded to the Shenandoah river, to Berry's ford. The troops crossed the river under cover of the darkness without molestation from the enemy, though with some difficulty on account of the high water. Reaching the opposite side of the river, they crossed the Blue Ridge through Andy's Gap, and proceeded to Paris, arriving at Paris after daylight, passing through Paris rebel bushwhackers fired a few shots at our troops from the adjacent hills. From Upperville to Piedmont our troops engaged in desultory fighting with miscellaneous parties of guerrillas. On arriving at Piedmont our troops surprised a party of Mosby's guerrillas, capturing many of them, also a considerable number of arms and upwards of one hundred head of horses and mules. The prisoners were some of Mosby's best men.

Our troops having obtained a distance of thirty-five miles, marching over stony and muddy roads, Major Gibson thought it advisable to return to camp. The return march was commenced, proceeding over the same route. Here and there were seen the enemy's videttes on the mountains, but always out of range of the rifle of our men. Nothing worthy of note transpired, and nothing occurred to seriously impede the march until the command reached a point in Andy's Gap one mile west of Paris, when suddenly a force of one hundred of Mosby's guerrillas, under the command of Captain Richardson, who were lying in ambush thirty yards from the point where our troops were riding, rose from their hiding place and poured a deadly fire into our column. Our troops returned the fire, and fought hand to hand with the enemy; but the latter, having the advantage of position and the element of surprise, were killing and wounding, or making prisoners of about ninety of our men. In the midst of the prisoners captured at Piedmont camp.

Lieutenant Baker, of Company F, was killed, who was in the advance, was captured, but not until he had inflicted punishment on his opponents. All the property captured at Piedmont was recaptured by the enemy. The property of four men unaffiliated twelve or fifteen rebels, among whom was an officer, supposed to have been Captain Richardson.

Captain Baker, of Company F, of the Fourteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, is supposed to have been killed, although several of those who accompanied the expedition allege that he was captured unharmed. Major Gibson, in command of the expedition, was wounded, and was made his escape. Lieutenant Nesmith, of Company F, Pennsylvania Cavalry, is wounded. Lieutenant Hagar was captured. Captain Richardson, who was in the rear, contributed valuable services in trying to overcome the enemy, but to no avail.

Major Gibson, finding further opposition unavailing, retreated with about thirty-five men, arriving here this afternoon. A small detachment of the enemy pursued our troops to Berry's ford, but was repulsed, and is retreating in the direction of our troops over the Shenandoah.

A Union scouting party captured a party of rebel scouts in Charleston, and the latter were brought to town and placed in the guardhouse.

Since writing the above many of the men supposed to have been captured have arrived in camp, reducing the number of prisoners in the enemy's hands to fifty. Capt. Coppinger, of Gen. Torbert's staff, was captured by the rebels.

Theatrical. WALLACE'S THEATRE.—REPRESENT OF MR. FISHER. To-night the performance at this establishment will be for the benefit of Mr. Charles Fisher, a staunch favorite of the public, who will unquestionably receive a bumper. Still Water Run Deep, and High Life Below Water, will be played, in both of which Mr. Fisher will give the present will the performance of the latter play in ten years, and of the former in this house. The bill is one of great attraction, and would crowd the house aside from the special claim upon public favor of the meritorious actor for whose benefit it is given.

NIRLO'S GARDEN. The Bolle's Stratagem was revived at this theatre last evening, and was very capably performed. Mr. Lander displays new excellencies in every part she undertakes, and in Letitia Hardy she was charming. Upon the whole, we like her comedy as well as her serious acting, if not better. Douricous is one of Mr. Whistley's very best impersonations, and in it he disarmed his severest critics. Mr. Pope's Sir George Touchwood, Mr. Burt's Hardy, and Mr. Burt's Hardy, were very fine. The present will the performance of the latter play in ten years, and of the former in this house. The bill is one of great attraction, and would crowd the house aside from the special claim upon public favor of the meritorious actor for whose benefit it is given.

BROADWAY THEATRE. The bill was changed at this theatre last evening, and the two Burlesque pieces, Forty Winks and Toddlers, were produced before a very crowded house. In Forty Winks an absurd old farce—Mr. John Owen threw the audience into convulsions of laughter. They screamed, shrieked, shouted, stamped, clapped each other upon the back, punched each other in the ribs, and fairly doubled themselves up with laughter. We have never heard such roars; we have never seen such abandon at any other place of amusement. Mr. Bryant, who is the best comedian to describe the fun. To appreciate it one must attend the theatre. In Toddlers, on the other hand, Mr. John Owen was excessively bad. We have never seen, and cannot possibly conceive of, a worse rendering of the character. The change was literally from gay to grave, from light to severe, from the broadest burlesque to the most painful comedy. Almost any amateur could have acted the part better than Owen did. The audience did not laugh much